

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Please replace the presently pending claims with the following claims:

1. A polynucleotide comprising:
 - (i) a nucleic acid sequence set out in SEQ. ID. NO: 5, 7 or 9 or a sequence complementary thereto; or
 - (ii) a homologue or fragment of a sequence defined in (i).
2. A polynucleotide according to claim 1 consisting essentially of the nucleic acid sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 5, 7 or 9 or a sequence complementary thereto.
3. (Amended) A polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide according to claim 1.
4. (Amended) A polypeptide obtainable by expressing a polynucleotide according to claim 1 in a cell which is a *Streptomyces* cell or a cell of a heterologous species.
5. A polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 6, 8 or 9 or a homologue or fragment thereof.
6. (Amended) A recombinant cell comprising at least one additional copy of a polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein the cell naturally possesses at least one said polynucleotide.
7. A recombinant cell according to claim 6, wherein the cell is one which naturally produces pimarinic acid or a related molecule.
8. A recombinant cell according to claim 7 which is a *Streptomyces natalensis* cell.
9. (Amended) A recombinant cell, wherein a polynucleotide according to claim 1 which naturally occurs in the cell has been inactivated.

10. A recombinant cell according to claim 9, wherein the cell is one which naturally produces pimarinin or a related molecule.

11. A recombinant cell according to claim 10 which is a *Streptomyces natalensis* cell.

12. (Amended) A recombinant cell comprising a polynucleotide according to claim 1 which polynucleotide does not naturally occur in that cell or where the polynucleotide is heterologous to that cell.

13. A recombinant cell according to claim 12, wherein the cell is one which does not naturally produce pimarinin.

14. A recombinant cell according to claim 13 which is a *Streptomyces lividans* or *Streptomyces coelicolor* cell.

15. (Amended) A method for overexpressing a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide according to claim 5 in a *Streptomyces* cell which method comprises:

- (i) attaching a promoter sequence to the said polynucleotide;
- (ii) transferring the resulting promoter-polynucleotide complex into the said cell; and
- (iii) maintaining the resulting cell under conditions suitable for expression of the said polynucleotide.

16. (Amended) A method for inactivating a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide according to claim 5 in a *Streptomyces* cell which method comprises disrupting the coding sequence of the said polynucleotide.

17. (Amended) A method for expressing a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide according to claim 5 in a heterologous cell which method comprises:

- (i) attaching a promoter sequence to the said polynucleotide;
- (ii) transferring the resulting promoter-polynucleotide complex into the said cell; and
- (iii) maintaining the resulting cell under conditions suitable for expression of the said polynucleotide.

18. (Amended) A method for producing pimaricin which method comprises maintaining a cell according to claim 6 under conditions suitable for obtaining expression of said additional copy of a polynucleotide and isolating pimaricin.

19. (Amended) A method for producing a biomolecule which method comprises maintaining a cell according to claim 9 under conditions which would be suitable for obtaining expression of the inactivated polynucleotide had it not been inactivated and isolating said biomolecule.

20. (Amended) A method for producing a biomolecule which method comprises maintaining a cell according to claim 12 under conditions suitable for obtaining expression of said polynucleotide and isolating said biomolecule.

21. (Amended) A biomolecule obtainable by a method according to claim 19.

Please cancel claims 22 and 23.

24. (Amended) A vector containing a polynucleotide according to claim 1 which is capable of expressing a polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide.

25. (Amended) A cell comprising a vector according to claim 24.

26. (Amended) A method for producing a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 6, 8 or 9 or a homologue or fragment thereof, which method comprises maintaining a cell according to claim 25 under conditions suitable for obtaining expression of the polypeptide and isolating the said polypeptide.

27. (Amended) A method to oxidize a methyl group contained in a compound which method comprises contacting said compound with an isolated or purified polypeptide according to claim 5.

Please add the following new claim:

28. (New) A biomolecule obtainable by a method according to claim 20.